(a) whether Government propose to four-lane the National Highway leading to Mundra Port;

(b) if so, whether any time-bound programme has been framed for the completion of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A (Extn.) in Gujarat has been approved under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIA on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis by the Government. Steps are being taken for award of consultancy services for conducting feasibility study to consider the possibility of award of this section on Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) basis. The stretches approved under NHDP Phase IIIA are targeted to be completed by December, 2009.

Upgradation of National Highways in Gujarat

2992. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the stretches connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat have not been upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the stretches left out from the purview of upgradation; and

(d) the criterion laid down for qualifying for such upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman near Gujarat are already located near National Highway No. 8 and Diu is located near National Highway No. 8E. Based on the traffic volume, Government of India has agreed in principle for widening to four-lane the three connecting roads *viz.* (i) Vapi-Daman road (ii) Vapi-Silvasa road and (iii) Bhilad-Naroli-Silvasa

road under Inter-State Connectivity Scheme. Detailed Project Report is awaited from Government of Gujarat and Union Territories.

(d) Criteria for declaration of new National Highway is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Criteria for Declaration of National Highways

1. Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.
2. Roads connecting adjacent countries.
3. Roads connecting the National Capital with State Capital and roads connecting mutually the State capitals.
4. Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.
5. Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
6. Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
7. Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.
8. National Highways grid of 100 km is achieved.
9. The road must be up to the standard laid down for State Highways both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.
10. The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State Government.
11. The right of way required for the National Highways (preferably 45m, minimum 30m) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachments and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within six months.

Construction of Aizawl-Ngopa road

2993. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for construction of Aizawl-Ngopa-Churachandpur (Manipur) road; and